

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for preventing, improving or treating of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) comprising administering a therapeutic agent comprising an effective amount of anti-CD-81 antibody which blocks a biological activity of CD81 to a mammal in need thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the anti-CD81 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

21. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of claim 19, in which the antibody is provided in the form of a Fab, F(ab')₂, Fv or single-chain Fv.

32. (New) The method of claim 19, in which the administration of anti-CD-81 antibody is associated with lengthening of the colon of said mammal.